

Senate Resolution 383

By: Senators Hill of the 4th, Whitehead, Sr. of the 24th, Murphy of the 27th, Mullis of the 53rd, Chapman of the 3rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the Georgia Department of Public Safety on its 70th anniversary; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Public Safety was created by the Georgia General
4 Assembly under House Bill 18 that was signed into law on March 19, 1937, which
5 established the department as part of the executive branch of Georgia government; and

6 WHEREAS, the three divisions of the department were a uniformed division known as the
7 Georgia State Patrol; a division of criminal identification, detection, prevention, and
8 investigation; and a division to license drivers; and

9 WHEREAS, the creation of a state highway patrol was one of the programs proposed by Ed
10 Rivers during his campaign for Governor in the 1936 gubernatorial campaign, and the first
11 Georgia State Patrol Troopers School enrolled 102 cadets from more than 3,000 applicants,
12 and only 80 graduated to become members of the Georgia State Patrol on August 28, 1937;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the first patrol posts were located in Griffin, Cartersville, Gainesville, Madison,
15 Americus, Moultrie, Perry, Washington, Swainsboro, and Waycross with headquarters
16 located in the Confederate Soldiers' Home in East Atlanta; and

17 WHEREAS, many other state agencies have been formed and developed from the Georgia
18 Department of Public Safety, including the Georgia Department of Driver Services, the
19 Governor's Office of Highway Safety, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Georgia
20 Crime Information Center, the GBI Crime Lab, the Georgia Police Academy, the Georgia
21 Public Safety Training Center, and the Peace Officer Standards and Training Council; and

22 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety has played a significant role in the events of
23 Georgia history since the department was created, including Georgia State Troopers not only

1 witnessing the rise of the civil rights movement during the 1960s, but also assisting in the
2 protection of the marchers, demonstrators, and spectators; and

3 WHEREAS, Georgia State Troopers have also provided security for major national and
4 international events, including the 1988 Democratic National Convention, the 1994 and 2000
5 Super Bowls, the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games, and the G8 Summit in 2004 on Sea
6 Island; and

7 WHEREAS, many of Georgia's troopers have been called to active military duty over the
8 years; during World War II, troopers who were not called to active duty were often requested
9 as military escorts for soldiers and their equipment; and troopers have also been called to
10 serve during Korea, Vietnam, and most recently in Iraq; and

11 WHEREAS, whenever or wherever Georgia State Troopers have been called to serve our
12 country, they have done so with honor, reflecting great credit upon the Department of Public
13 Safety and the State of Georgia; and

14 WHEREAS, Georgia State Troopers have served the citizens of Georgia honorably, and
15 during the 70 year history of the department, 26 have died in the line of duty, and their
16 sacrifice to make Georgia safer will always be remembered; and

17 WHEREAS, each and every member of the department strives to meet the core values of the
18 department: trust, fortitude, compassion, and professionalism, and it is only fitting to honor
19 the department on its 70th anniversary.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
21 honor the Department of Public Safety for its service to the citizens of Georgia in keeping
22 us safe from harm on our highways and in our homes.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
24 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Department of Public Safety.